

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): A method for supplying merchandise to members of a religious organization, while optimizing the distribution channels to maximize profitability and improve customer service, increase the quantity and quality of merchandise available to members, personalizing offers to individual members, recruiting electronic merchants, including secular entities selling religious merchandise, as well as advertisers, to improve contributions and profit revenues for purchases made directly by each member in the organizations place of worship or through the world wide web, comprising the steps of:

providing a non-centralized communication network comprising a computer hive made up of a hierarchically-arranged plurality of interlinked clusters of computer devices having specialized functions, the computers operating in unison using Beowulf and Hoard technology to function as a supercomputer having shared SCSI disk space, memory, and its own network packet protocol, wherein the computers are configured into a neural network which continuously scans and gathers information from, and interacts with its environment, in which individual nodes of the network are provided belonging to the collective hive while possessing individual personalized business rules and membership to a computer network organization managerial hierarchy, including:

a first software tier in which each subscribing member has a unique identifier corresponding to a particular religious parish;

a second IP tier in which several IP computer servers allocate resources to subscribing members to enable interaction in a virtual environment;

a third billing and control tier through which the computer hive validates each and every member request, performs live billing, and controls all of the interaction the members receive;

a fourth Internal TQM and Security tier through which one or more suppliers regulate, in real time, delivery of merchandise in accordance with a member agreement and local, state, federal or national and international law; and

a summit tier through which a virtual representation of God is created, the summit tier including a database containing data regarding world history,

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dilemmas, customs, contemporary beliefs and dogma;

enabling delivery of merchandise, via the non-centralized communication network, between subscribers and merchandise suppliers, in a manner which directs royalties and advertising revenues to participating religious organizations; and

facilitating, via the non-centralized communications network, an environment in which a participating religious organization retains complete control of member access and interaction therewith, to conform its membership to conduct consistent with the teachings of the religious organization.